Writing Off Loans Given from SDF

399. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Calcutta High Court has ruled that the Central Government are fully competent to write off loans given from the Steel Development Fund (SDF) to Steel Authority of India Limited and other Steel Companies in private sector; and

(b) if so, the details of the loans extended to the steel plants from the SDF and Government's reaction to the High Court ruling?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) The Calcutta High Court in its judgement dated 3.2.2000 has ruled, inter-alia that Steel plants industries in public sector can be treated differently than the plants industries in the private sector, including the matter of loan advanced from the Steel Development Fund (SDF). In case of Public Sector Industries (SAIL) Government can waive the interest or even can write off the loan itself.

(b) Details of loans extended to the main producers from the Steel Development Fund (SDF) as on 31.3.1999 are as under:

		Rs. Crores
(i)	Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL)	4761.44
(ii)	Tata Iron & Steel Company Ltd. (TISCO)	905.10
(iii)	Indian Iron & Steel Co. Ltd. (IISCO)	44.68

The Government accepts the judgement of the court.

Misuse of Aircrafts owned by SAIL

†400. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK:
PROF RAMGOPAL YADAV:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India regarding the misuse of aeroplanes owned by the Steel Authority of India; and

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the amount of loss suffered by Government as per the report, together with the names of the persons against whom action has been taken by Government according to the said report, alongwith details of action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year ended March 1998. Union Government (Commercial) (Steel Authority of India Limited) No. 6 of 1999 has been placed on the Tables of both the Houses of the Parliament. This report also contains a chapter on utilisation of Aircrafts owned by SAIL.

(b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Suspension of Managing Director of SAIL

401. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that the Managing Director of the Indian Iron and Steel Company Ltd. has been suspended and inquiry has been conducted into the alleged corruption charges against him while he was Director of the raw material division of the Steel Authority of India Limited; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It is a fact that Shri G.S. Garcha, Managing Director, Indian Iron Steel Company, a subsidiary of SAIL, has been placed under suspension and departmental proceedings against him have been initiated for alleged corrupt practices in awarding certain tenders.

Waiving off SAIL Loan

402. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the report "MoF picks holes in SAIL SDF loan write-off plan" in 'Economic Times', dated 1.2.2000;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Finance has refused to write-off Rs. 5073 crore loan taken by SAIL from the SDF; and